

I claim:

- 1 1. A golf ball retrieval tool comprising
2 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;
3 a tool having
4 a body coupled to one end of the handle and extending substantially parallel
5 the longitudinal axis;
6 a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially
7 perpendicular to the body;
8 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to
9 both the shelf and the body, wherein the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-
10 cornered support for a golf ball; and
coupling means for coupling the tool to the handle.
- 1 2. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 and further comprising
2 a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite the backstop.
- 1 3. The retrieval tool according to Claim 2 wherein
2 the prongs extend coplanar with the shelf opposite the backstop.
- 1 4. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and
3 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining a slot
4 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

- 1 5. The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein
2 the plug is adapted to receive the tang in a plurality of angular positions about the
3 longitudinal axis.
- 1 6. The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein the plug further comprises
2 a cap having a dimension larger than an outside dimension of the shaft.
- 1 7. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body
3 to the handle.
- 1 8. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a plate disposed on a side of, and oriented substantially perpendicular to, the tool body
3 and adapted to contact an end of the handle; and
4 a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body
5 to the handle.
- 1 9. The retrieval tool according to Claim 8 wherein the plate comprises
2 a yoke having a mouth opening open toward the handle and adapted to receive the end
3 of the handle within the mouth.
- 1 10. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein
2 the backstop is disposed on an end of the shelf a spaced distance apart from the body
3 to define a gap adapted to receive storage means for the tool.

1 11. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein
2 the handle comprises a golf club having a head and a grip on opposite ends of a shaft;
3 and
4 the tool removably couples to the grip.

1 12. The retrieval tool according to Claim 11 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and
3 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining an slot
4 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1 13. The retrieval tool according to Claim 12 wherein the plug further comprises
2 a cap having a dimension larger than an outside dimension of the shaft.

1 14. A golf ball retrieval tool comprising
2 an elongated handle having
3 a longitudinal axis and an inside surface;
4 a plug coupled to the inside surface;
5 a tool head having
6 a body coupled to and extending from the plug;
7 a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially
8 perpendicular to the body;
9 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to
10 both the shelf and the body, whereby the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-
11 cornered support for a golf ball; and
12 two tapered prongs disposed on the shelf and extending from the shelf
13 opposite the backstop.

1 15. An improved method of retrieving a golf ball, the method comprising
2 providing a golf ball retrieval tool having
3 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite
4 ends;
5 a tool adapted to couple to the handle and having
6 a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;
7 a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle substantially
8 perpendicular to the body; and
9 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular
10 to both the shelf and the body, wherein the body, the shelf and the
11 backstop define an open-cornered support for a golf ball; then
12 coupling the tool to the handle; then
13 grasping the end of the handle opposite the tool; then
14 lowering the tool into a cup containing a golf ball; then
15 positioning the shelf near a lower portion of the golf ball; then
16 tilting the handle to urge the golf ball onto the shelf; then
17 raising the handle upward to retrieve the ball from the cup.

1 16. The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of Claim 15 wherein the step of coupling
2 the tool to the handle further comprises

3 providing

4 a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and

5 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot

6 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then

7 inserting the tang into the slot; then

8 pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1 17. The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of claim 15 wherein the step of coupling
2 the tool to the handle comprises

3 providing

4 a shank disposed on the body and extending longitudinally away from the body;

5 a yoke disposed on a side of the tool body and having an opening oriented

6 away from the shelf and adapted to receive an end of the handle; and

7 a strap coupled to the shank; then

8 positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle

9 received within the opening of the yoke, then

10 wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

18. An improved method of repairing a golf ball mark, the method comprising
providing a golf ball retrieval tool having
an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite
ends;
a tool adapted to couple to the handle and having
a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;
a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially
perpendicular to the body;
a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular
to both the shelf and the body; and
a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite
the backstop; then
coupling the tool to the handle; then
grasping the end of the handle opposite the tool; then
positioning the prongs against the ground near the ball mark such that the prongs may
penetrate the ground beneath a bottom of the ball mark; then
applying pressure to the backstop to urge the prongs to penetrate the ground are under
the ball mark; then
rotating the handle to lift the prongs and elevate the bottom of the ball mark.

1 19. The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18 wherein the step of
2 coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;
3 providing
4 a tang extending longitudinally from the body; and
5 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot
6 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then
7 inserting the tang into the slot; then
8 pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1 20. The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18 wherein the step of
2 coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;
3 providing
4 a shank disposed on and extending longitudinally away from the body;
5 a yoke disposed on a side of the body and having an opening oriented away
6 from the shelf, the opening adapted to receive one end of the handle; and
7 and a strap coupled to a shank; then
8 positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle
9 received within the opening of the yoke; then
10 wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

21. An improved method of preventing a golf club grip from contacting the ground during use, the golf club having a shaft having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite ends, a head on one end and a grip on the opposite end, the method comprising

providing a golf ball retrieval tool adapted to couple to the grip and having

- a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;
- a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially perpendicular to the body;
- a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the shelf and the body; and
- coupling means for coupling the tool to the grip; then

coupling the tool to the grip; then

grasping the golf club by the grip and laying the head onto the ground; then

laying the golf club down substantially parallel to the ground until the tool contacts the ground whereby a gap remains between the grip and the ground; then

retrieving the golf club from the ground by inserting lifting means between the grip and the ground and lifting the grip.